

Glossary of Terms

Basic Interpersonal Communications Skills (BICS)

Basic Interpersonal Communications Skills (BICS) is the social dimension of language that demonstrates a student's ability to converse socially with teachers, peers, and others. It is a very concrete aspect of language and takes less than three years to demonstrate near-native-like proficiency with BICS (Cummins, 1981).

Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)

Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) is the more abstract dimension of language that includes being able to read, write, and perform within a content-area classroom at grade level. CALP takes from 5 to 12 years to develop, depending on a multitude of variables for each ESL student (Cummins, 1981).

English Language Proficiency (ELP)

A language minority student's English Language Proficiency is his or her level of attainment of skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension in the English language. ELP level is determined by a formal ELP assessment that identifies students with an ELP Level 1 through 5. These levels can then be used as a reference to the ELP standards.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

A methodology of providing instructional services to language minority students. ESL services enhance students' acquisition of English Language Proficiency and understanding of academic content.

Language Minority Student

A language minority student is any child whose linguistic background, such as country of origin or home environment, includes a language other than English. Language minority students may be FEP or LEP (see below), depending upon their level of English Language Proficiency.

Limited English Proficient (LEP)

A student whose native language is one other than English and is limited in any area of listening, speaking, reading, writing, or comprehension of English.

Fluent English Proficient (FEP)

A student whose native language is one other than English and who has attained a fluency in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension of English, as well as demonstrated academic achievement comparable to native English-speaking peers.